

THE FEMALE OF *EUCRYPTOCERUS PLACIDUS* (F. Smith)
(Hymenoptera: Formicidae)

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When Kempf (1951) revised the genus *Eucryptocerus*, he had available to him fewer than 20 specimens (all workers) representing the four species recognized then. A fifth species, *E. serraticeps* (F. Smith), described from a single female, was included provisionally; this species was unknown to Kempf, except by the very inadequate original description. At this time, the sexual forms of *Eucryptocerus* were unknown.

A few years later Kempf (1959), after examining the male type of *Cephalotes placidus* (F. Smith), removed this species to the genus *Eucryptocerus* and placed *E. opacus* (F. Smith) in synonymy with it. Kempf redescribed the male specimen and provided the first adequate concept of what the sexual forms are like.

While examining a series of ants from Amazonian Peru, I discovered a series of 40 workers of *E. placidus*; associated with the workers was a single alate female cephalotine which bore a strong superficial resemblance to the females of the related genus *Cephalotes*. There can be little doubt that this is the previously undescribed female of *placidus*, and in order to assist others working with Neotropical ants, it seems advisable to describe it at this time.

This specimen has been checked against Smith's description of *E. serraticeps*, and there can be little doubt that the two species are distinct from one another. Smith described his species as having the abdomen "... very smooth and shining, with scattered delicate punctures; the apical segments roughened, with their margins smooth and shining." In the female of *E. placidus* the abdomen is distinctly marked with fine, transverse striae, imparting a rather dull appearance; the abdominal punctures are more obscure than fine, and are mostly separated by only two or three times a puncture diameter. The wings differ in color from Smith's description since the entire wing, except the submarginal cell, is infuscated with brownish. The wing agrees closely with the description and figures of Kempf (1959), except that the marginal cell is somewhat longer.

The following description should prove to be of assistance in recognizing additional female specimens of this species:

Alate female (Fig. 1): Total length, 11.4 mm.; forewing, 10.9 mm.; maximum head width, 3.0 mm.; maximum head length (from anterior margin of lateral lobes), 2.9 mm.; maximum thoracic width, 3.0 mm. Integument dull black, except the dark reddish-brown apical tarsal segments.

Head, excluding mandibles, very slightly longer than wide; mandibles strongly rugose; clypeus about as broad as long, triangular; frontal carinae slightly convergent anteriorly, margin of lower one-third slightly crenulate, with a few clavate setae; occiput with a pair of low, pointed tubercles immediately above posterior ocelli; a low pointed tubercle on each side above eyes, with a similar tubercle immediately behind; front distinctly convex when viewed from above; occipital emargination rather deep; cheeks very broad, almost one-third as broad as head is long.

Pronotum nearly vertical anteriorly; humeral angles projecting forward as a narrow spine when viewed from above, pronotal crest strong laterally, absent medially, carinate, the carina raised on each side of median line as a pair of low humps, entire carina slightly crenulate; mesopleura with small spine above mid coxae; epinotum narrow, with a pair of spines directed caudad, the spines about as long as distance between their bases.

Petiole short, about twice as broad as long, anterior face vertical; postpetiole not swollen dorsally, only slightly swollen laterally; petiole and postpetiole without ventral projections; gaster more elongate than in worker, about one-third longer than broad, first tergite emarginate basally, disc with very fine striae which converge medially, anterior carina of first tergite distinct as far back as spiracle; remaining tergites discally roughened, all tergites with a narrow, dull, impunctate marginal band; first ventrite dull, sparsely punctate with a few irregular striae laterally; remaining ventrites roughened discally; all ventrites with narrow, impunctate apical margins which are slightly more shiny than those of tergites.

Integument generally dull, subopaque, mesoscutum, scutellum and abdomen somewhat shinier. Punctures of front moderate in size, separated by about a puncture diameter, becoming a little finer and sparser below, somewhat less distinct on pronotal lobes; punctures of occiput coarser than those of front, separated by a puncture diameter or less; cheeks rugoso-punctate; punctures of anterior and upper faces of pronotum equal to those of occiput, sparser medially, of lateral face coarse, rather close; punctures of mesoscutum slightly elongated, separated by a puncture diameter or less, becoming sparser

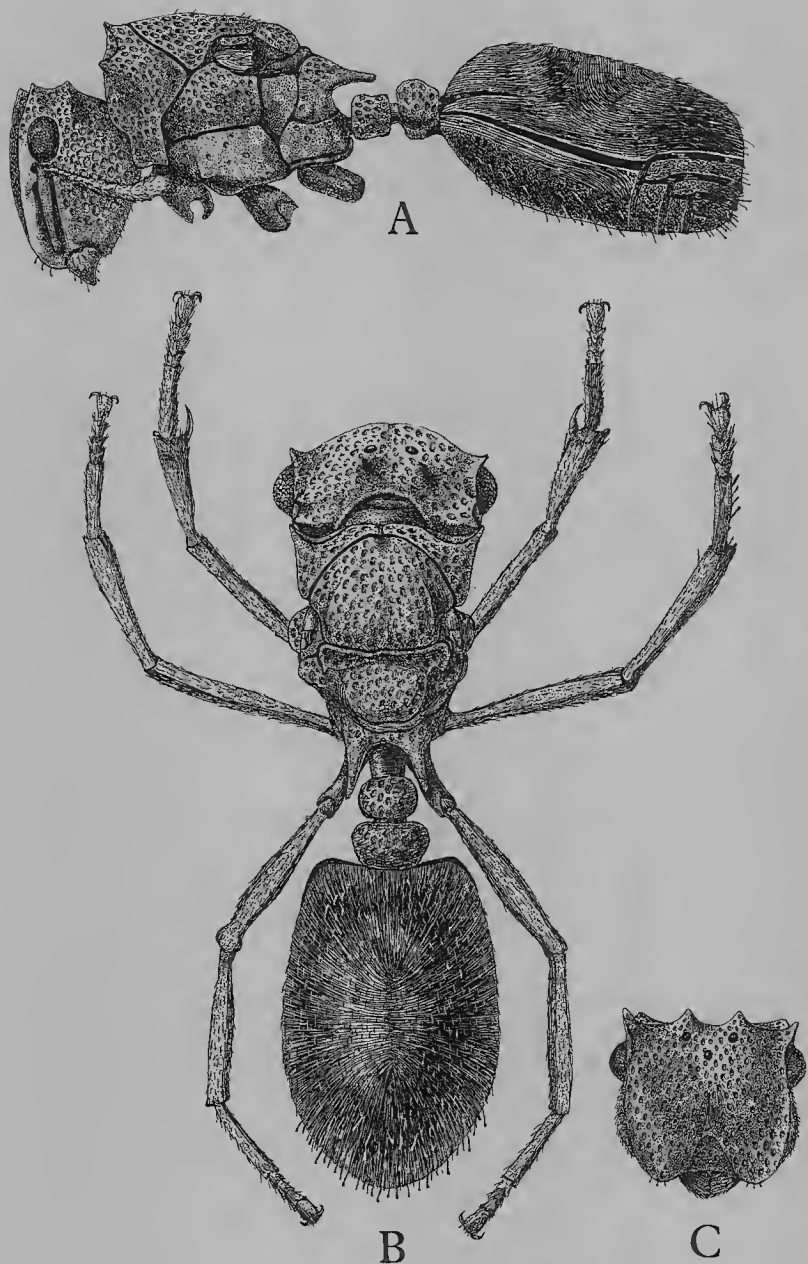


Figure 1. *Eucryptocerus placidus* (F. Smith), alate female. A. lateral view, legs and wings removed; B. dorsal view, wings removed; C. frontal aspect of head only.

and fainter laterad; those of disc about equal to those of occiput; punctures of upper mesopleural plate slightly finer than those of adjacent portion of pronotum, separated by slightly less than a puncture diameter; punctures of lower half of mesopleura, entire metapleura, lateral and posterior faces of epinotum obscure, scattered, the integument opaque, minutely granulose; punctures of scutellum slightly elongate, equal to those of mesoscutum, separated by a puncture diameter or less, the integument slightly more shiny than elsewhere; punctures of basal face of epinotum coarse, deep, subcontiguous.

Wings fuscous infusate, except for clear submarginal cell; marginal cell closed and appendiculate apically, about 3.5 times as long as wide; submarginal cell about three-fourths as long as marginal; otherwise as figured by Kempf (1959:93) for the male.

Described from a single alate female, associated with forty workers, from Pucallpa, Loreto, Peru, alt. 200 m., collected November 11-20, 1964 by J. Schunke. All specimens in the collection of the Los Angeles County Museum.

LITERATURE CITED

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